



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

March 11, 2011

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Senate Bill 1132 - An Act Concerning Campaign Finance Disclosure

The State Elections Enforcement Commission **supports Senate Bill 1132** which represents the Commission's proposal which sets forth largely conforming and technical changes to the law in light of the changes made last summer in Public Act 10-01 (Sp. Sess.) as well as in other past public acts.

Under the current law, pursuant to General Statutes § 9-608 (c) (3), a contributor who makes a contribution to certain committees in excess of \$50 must certify that he or she is not a principal of a state contractor or a communicator lobbyist. This does not comport with the changes in the law enacted with Public Act 10-01 during the special session last summer, as communicator lobbyists are now permitted to contribute up to \$100 to committees covered by General Statutes § 9-610 (g). Accordingly, the existing certification requirement mandates that the contributor certify he or she is not a communicator lobbyist or immediate family member when in fact, the contributor is permitted to give even if he or she *is* a communicator lobbyist, albeit only up to \$100. This bill remedies this issue and conforms the certification requirement with the revisions to the lobbyist provisions in Public Act 10-01 (Sp. Sess.). In addition, **Senate Bill 1132** modifies the existing certification requirement to account for the branch specific nature of the state contractor contribution ban in General Statutes § 9-612 (g), as well as the exemptions to both the communicator lobbyist and state contractor provisions for elected public officials.

Senate Bill 1132 also requires disclosure by certain covered committees of those persons who have bundled contributions for or on behalf of the committee on the committee's financial disclosure statements (SEEC Form 20 and SEEC Form 30). Public Act 10-01 (Sp. Sess.) imposed a new ban on communicator lobbyists bundling contributions for covered committees. This amendment will provide a tool for treasurers to monitor whether lobbyists are complying with the law, as well as provide public disclosure of those who bundle contributions for committees. Of note, this bill will require no new types of disclosure forms or filings. The changes can be effectuated using existing financial disclosure forms filed with the SEEC.

Thank you for your consideration of our Commission's proposal.